

CATHEKINE'S EMBASSY TO FLORENCE

LU this I tell you, not that you may receive
 bitterness, but that
 ou may feel ineffable delight with sweetest
 gladness ; and that
 ou and I may begin to bewail my imperfection,
 since so great
 liss was prevented by my sins. Now how blessed
 would my
 Did have been, if, for the most sweet Spouse and
 for love of the
 lood and for the salvation of souls, I had given my
 blood I I
 'ill say no more about this matter : I leave this and
 other things
 D Cristofano to say ; I would only tell you to
 beseech Christ on
 irth not to postpone the peace because of what has
 happened,
 ut to conclude it the more promptly, in order that
 he may then
 irry out the other great deeds that he has on hand
 for the
 onour of God and for the reformation of Holy
 Church. There
 as been no change because of this ; on the contrary,
 the city for
 ic present is pacified, most fittingly. Tell him to
 have pity and
)mpassion upon these souls, who are in great
 darkness ; and tell
 im to deliver me speedily from prison; for, unless
 peace is
 Lade, it seems that I cannot get out; and I would
 fain come
 ten to Rome to taste the blood of the martyrs, and
 to visit his
 foliness, and to find myself again with you to
 narrate the
 Imirable mysteries that God has wrought in these
 times, with
 adness of mind and with joy of heart, with increase
 of hope,
 ith the light of most holy
 faith."¹

This was probably written on the day of the tumult, immediately after the Signoria had, for the present, put down the king with practically no loss of life, save of those who had been executed by the

law. ^{tc} But, albeit that tumult had for the time
ased," writes Raimondo, " the holy virgin and her
fellowship sre by no means safe ; nay, such great
fear had come upon all e inhabitants of the city
that, even as in the time of the martyrs, ere was no
one who would receive her into his house. Her
iritual sons and daughters advised her to return to
the city of ;na; but she answered them that she
could not depart from

¹ Letter 295 (96) ; in the Harleian and Casanatense MSS.
Raimondo's ount of the affair, *Legenda*, III. vi. 32, 33 (§ §
426, 427), is clearly based on what Cristofano told him,
slightly coloured, iperhaps, by an unconscious lire to make it
resemble the scene in the Garden of Olives in the fourth
Gospel.